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INFO RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [EAID](#) [IZ](#) [EUN](#)

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGING GREATER REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT WITH IRAQ

REF: A. STATE 35471

- [1](#)B. BRUSSELS 0451
- [1](#)C. BRUSSELS 0446
- [1](#)D. BRUSSELS 0108

[1](#)1. (U) EU contacts confirmed that the EU will be represented at the Expanded Neighbors process on April 22 in Kuwait by Slovenian Presidency Foreign Minister Rupel, Council desk officer for Iraq Sophie Kisling, and Commission Deputy Director-General for the Middle East Hugues Mingarelli. Council HiRep Javier Solana and Commissioner for External Affairs Benita Ferrero Waldner will both be in Japan for the EU-Japan summit meeting on 22 April and thus are unable to attend the Expanded Neighbors meeting. Council contact understands both French FM Kouchner and British FM Miliband will also attend the neighbors meeting. EU participation in the May 29 Stockholm ministerial meeting of the International Compact with Iraq has not yet been determined. Council contact assured us that encouraging debt relief, diplomatic representation, general establishment of friendly relations, and (where appropriate) non-interference are routinely included in their talking points with Arab governments.

[1](#)2. (SBU) PM Maliki will visit Brussels on 16 and 17 April and will meet with EU officials on the 16th as follows:  
President of the European Parliament Han-Gert Poettering,  
President of the European Commission Jose Manuel Barroso and  
Secretary General/High Representative of the Council Javier

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Solana.

Murray

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